

# NEWS

## *From the County of San Bernardino* **Josie Gonzales 5th District**

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/gonzales>

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### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

#### **SUPERVISOR COVERS IMPORTANT ISSUES DURING LEGISLATIVE TALK**

**SAN BERNARDINO** – A full house listened today as Supervisor Josie Gonzales talked about homelessness, illegal dumping, healthy communities, and the widening of Interstate 10 during the Fontana Chamber of Commerce’s Legislative Lunch.

San Bernardino County 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Josie Gonzales focused her presentation on priorities that affect the way the residents within her district live.

Supervisor Gonzales first addressed homelessness in the county. She aired a video produced by Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County, and then told the audience how homelessness impacts the county’s image. As Chair of the County’s Homeless Coalition, she explained that plans are being discussed to solve this countywide problem.

“We are working to bring our cities, community organizations and concerned residents together to develop a plan to end homelessness in San Bernardino County,” said Supervisor Gonzales.

More than 100 guests listened as she switched gears to talk about health. A year ago Supervisor Gonzales championed the Board’s adoption of a Healthy Communities Program designed to create healthy environments and to promote healthy lifestyle choices.

The program has supported cities’ efforts to become healthy cities, like “Healthy Fontana.” Developers and local governments are partnering with the county to create sustainable, environmentally friendly communities with green, open space and jobs close to homes. The county has also supported events – like the Governor’s Competition Challenge and the Kids Fitness Challenge – that teach children the importance of healthy eating and daily exercise.

Supervisor Gonzales, who also chairs First 5 San Bernardino, told her audience that a bill – Senate Bill 893 (R-Cox) – that threatened to de-fund First 5 commissions statewide died yesterday in the Senate Health Committee.

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First 5 San Bernardino currently works with over 80 partner agencies to address the needs of children 0 to 5 and their families. They offer services, through these agencies, such as parenting education, school readiness programs, health care and dental screenings.

“This bill did not pass, but it is a wake-up call for First 5 commissions and the agencies that depend on state and federal moneys to fund their programs,” said Supervisor Gonzales. “If our non-profits are going to continue to provide the valuable services our residents need, they must look for ways to become self-sustainable.”

Congestion relief along the Interstate 10 corridor between Interstate 15 and Interstate 215 is another priority the Supervisor addressed. In order to open up this traffic bottleneck, the bridges at Cherry, Citrus, Cedar, Riverside and Pepper avenues must be reconstructed and widened. This will allow additional lanes to be added to the freeway.

Supervisors Gonzales and Paul Biane have joined with the mayors of Fontana, Rialto and Colton to form the I-10 Coalition. By working together, the county and the cities can better utilize their resources and lobby as a group for federal and state funds to improve the freeway.

“Through this coalition, we can create a collaborative synergy and a freeway system that will still be functional when our grandchildren are adults,” Supervisor Gonzales said.

She also talked about the county’s clean up efforts and crackdown on illegal dumping. The Board recently adopted an illegal dumping ordinance that establishes fines for illegal dumping.

Through the We Tip hotline, 1 (800) 78-CRIME, residents can report persons who trash our neighborhoods. Residents who witness illegal dumping in unincorporated communities will be rewarded up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the identification and/or arrest and conviction of an illegal dumper.

Supervisor Gonzales announced that the county and state will invest \$6.35 million next year in Fontana when they start an expansion and remodel of the Fontana Superior Court. Construction is scheduled to start in April 2008. By expanding the courthouse by 8,970 square feet, the county and state will be able to add a courtroom and a new jury assembly room. The remodel project will also improve the efficiency and safety of the courthouse.

To view Supervisor Gonzales’ Power Point presentation, please visit her Web site at [www.sbcounty.gov/gonzales](http://www.sbcounty.gov/gonzales).

*The 5th District includes the unincorporated areas of Bloomington, Muscoy and Arrowhead Farms, the city of Rialto, major portions of the cities of Colton and San Bernardino, and a segment of the city of Fontana.*

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